**John 16:1-15 “Why it’s Good that Jesus Went Away”**

***Introduction:*** The disciples faced mixed emotions when Jesus told them he was leaving. They had depended on Him for guidance, teaching, and leadership for three years. His declaration in John 16:7 that "it is to your advantage that I go away" must have sounded astonishing. Jesus' departure wasn't about abandonment, but empowerment. It set the stage for the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would dwell within believers. This section of Scripture shows why Jesus' leaving was good news, focusing on the coming, work, and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**I. The Coming of the Holy Spirit (vv.1-7)**

***Observation:*** Jesus warned His disciples about the upcoming persecution and the world's hostility. He explained why His leaving was necessary for the Holy Spirit to come and how it served as an advantage for them. ***Interpretation:*** Jesus' physical presence was limited to one place at a time. The Holy Spirit, however, would dwell in all believers, empowering them continuously. His indwelling ensures that we have God's presence not just with us but in us. ***Application:*** Reflect on whether you are relying on the Holy Spirit's presence in your life. Pray for awareness and responsiveness to His guidance.

**Study Questions:**

**1.** Why do you think the disciples struggled to understand the advantage of Jesus leaving them?

**2.** Jesus warned His disciples about coming persecution. How can we prepare ourselves and others for potential opposition to our faith in today's world?

**3.** How has the Holy Spirit's presence in your life changed your understanding of Jesus' departure? In what ways have you experienced the Spirit's guidance and empowerment?

**II. The Work of the Holy Spirit (vv.8-11)**

***Observation*:** The Holy Spirit convicts the world regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment. ***Interpretation:*** The Holy Spirit acts like a prosecuting attorney, revealing human sin, the need for Christ's righteousness, and the reality of judgment. He convicts not to condemn, but to lead people to Christ.
 ***Application:*** Consider how the Holy Spirit has convicted you of sin. How can you be more open to His leading?

**Study Questions:**

**1.** How does understanding the Holy Spirit's work in the world affect how you share the Gospel with others?

**2.** The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. How have you experienced this conviction in your own life, and how has it shaped your faith journey?

**3.** In what ways might we be resisting or ignoring the Holy Spirit's convicting work in our lives? How can we become more responsive to His prompting?

**III. The Guidance of the Holy Spirit (vv.12-15)**

***Observation:*** Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide the disciples into all truth once He was gone. ***Interpretation:*** The Holy Spirit would continue Jesus' teaching, guiding believers in understanding the truth of God’s word and exalting Christ in the process.

 ***Application:*** Make a daily practice of inviting the Holy Spirit to guide you and to lead you into the truth of God’s word.

**Study Questions:**

**1.** How does the Holy Spirit guide us today, and how can we be more receptive to His leading?

**2.** How does the Holy Spirit's role in continuing Jesus' mission challenge us to live out our faith in practical ways?

**3.** Jesus spoke of the Spirit guiding believers into all truth. How does this promise impact our approach to understanding Scripture and discerning God's will?

**Application for the Week:**

**1.** This week, set aside time each day to intentionally listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance through the word of God. Journal about any insights you receive.

**2.** Reflect on areas in your life where you might be resisting the Spirit's conviction. Pray for the courage to address these areas and seek accountability if needed.

**3.** Choose a specific way to rely more on the Holy Spirit's power this week (e.g., witnessing to others, overcoming sin).

**4.** Study more about the Holy Spirit's role by reading through the book of Acts, noting how the early church depended on His guidance and power.